

The Benefice of Silsoe, Pulloxhill and Flitton

Growing as beacons of Christ's Light in our communities

**Eucharist for Sunday 17th May 2020
6th Sunday of Easter, Rogation Sunday**



Our service today is led by Rev Anna Garvie

A prayer for Rogation Sunday

Lord, we remember your mercy and loving kindness towards us.
Bless the earth and make it fruitful.
Bless our neighbour and give us all that we need for our daily lives.
Bless our homes and all who live in them
and bless our common life and our care for our neighbours
Hear us Good Lord, Amen

We gather for worship and praise God

Come, all you who are loved by God,
Come, and be fed with the food
that He gives freely;
Come, and quench your thirst from the Waters of Life;
Come, and let your spirits be filled again
with the goodness of your Creator

**Lord God, Giver of all good things,
We hear Your invitation,
we see Your gifts of life and grace.
We have come, we have tasted and we know, O God, You are good.
Amen.**

We bring our confession

A moment of silent prayer, in which each we may reflect on our lives, and bring our prayers for forgiveness, healing and renewal to God.

O God, Who embraces us in mercy and acceptance,
We recognise those places in our lives
where we have been hurt and rejected.

And we offer them to You.

We recognise those times when we have hurt and rejected others

And we offer them to You.

And we recognise the ways that we have failed
to believe in Your forgiving power.

**In the Name of Jesus Christ who died,
who said, "Father, forgive them,"
we pray that You would cleanse and heal us,
and help us to live in the strength
that comes from You.**

Amen.

The Collect

Almighty God,
whose will it is that the earth and the sea
should bear fruit in due season,
bless the labours of those who work on land and sea.
Grant us a good harvest
and the grace always to rejoice in your fatherly care,
through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit
one God, now and forever,

Amen.

Reading from the Old Testament

Read by Gillian Chapple - Jeremiah Chapter 6, verses 16 – 21

This is what the LORD says:
"Stand at the crossroads and look;
ask for the ancient paths,
ask where the good way is, and walk in it,
and you will find rest for your souls.
But you said, 'We will not walk in it.'

I appointed watchmen over you and said,
'Listen to the sound of the trumpet!'
But you said, 'We will not listen.'

Therefore hear, you nations;
you who are witnesses,
observe what will happen to them.

Hear, you earth:
I am bringing disaster on this people,
the fruit of their schemes,
because they have not listened to my words
and have rejected my law.

What do I care about incense from Sheba
or sweet calamus from a distant land?
Your burnt offerings are not acceptable;
your sacrifices do not please me.”

Therefore this is what the LORD says:
“I will put obstacles before this people.
Parents and children alike will stumble over them;
neighbors and friends will perish.”

Reading from the Gospel

Read by Gordon Garvie – Luke Chapter 11 , verses 5 - 13

Then Jesus said to them,
“Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight
and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread;
a friend of mine on a journey has come to me,
and I have no food to offer him.’
And suppose the one inside answers,
‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked,
and my children and I are in bed.
I can’t get up and give you anything.’
I tell you, even though he will not get up
and give you the bread because of friendship,
yet because of your shameless audacity
he will surely get up and give you as much as you need. “

So I say to you:
“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find;
knock and the door will be opened to you.
For everyone who asks receives;
the one who seeks finds;
and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”

“Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish,
will give him a snake instead?
Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?
If you then, though you are evil,
know how to give good gifts to your children,
how much more will your Father in heaven
give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you O Christ

Hymn – For the beauty of the earth

For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

*Lord of all to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow'r,
sun and moon and stars of light:

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
pleasures pure and undefined:

For each perfect gift of thine,
to our race so freely giv'n,
graces human and divine,
flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n.

Sermon by the Archdeacon of Bedford, the Venerable Dave Middlebrook

We proclaim what we believe

**We believe in God,
The Maker and Lover of all things.
We believe in God,
the One who comes near, and rescues all people.
We believe in God,
The One who gives life to every creature,
and fills us with strength and love.
Amen.**

Prayers led by the Venerable Dave Middlebrook and Margaret Butt

Hymn – Be still for the presence of the Lord

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here;
come, bow before him now,
with reverence and fear.
In him no sin is found,
we stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
he burns with holy fire,
with splendour he is crowned.
How awesome is the sight,
our radiant King of Light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place,
he comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister his grace.
No work too hard for him,
in faith receive from him;
be still, for the power of the Lord

We gather at the Lord's Table

Come, all you who are loved by God,
Come to the table of the Lord,
Come and eat food with no cost,
Come and drink with no money to pay.
We come to eat, to drink, and our hearts are glad.

Yes, Dear Lord our God, Our hearts truly are glad,
and we are filled with thankfulness,
because in Your great love You did not abandon us
in the dark and fearful places of this world,
but in Jesus, You came to us, to rescue us, to restore us,
and to give us new life.

**And all who are tired and burdened,
all who are frightened and unsafe,
all who are sick and broken, can come and find new life.**

We remember the way that Jesus showed His love:
On the evening before He died, He had supper with His friends
and during the meal, He took the bread,
and gave thanks for it, He broke it
and then passed it around with these words:

**This is my body broken for you.
Eat this and remember Me.**

And, after the meal He took the cup of wine
and gave thanks for it and then passed it around with these words:

**This is my blood shed for you.
Drink this and remember Me.**

And now, every time we eat bread like this,
and every time we drink wine like this,
we remember Jesus, and His everlasting love.

We say together the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, in heaven,
hallowed be Your name;
Your kingdom come;
Your will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are Yours now for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Here is the table of the Lord.
We are gathered to his supper, a foretaste of things eternal.
Come, when you are fearful, to be made new in love.
Come, when you are doubtful, to be made strong in faith.
Come, when you are regretful, and be made whole.
Come, old and young, there is room for all.

We prepare to go back Into the world

Now come, all you who are loved by God,
hear His call to serve others as He has served you;
Hear His invitation to be part of His plan to rescue the world.
Join the community of those who walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

**Lord God of World-Changing Love, we thank You for this meal,
and for welcoming us to Your table.
We remember that we are Your children,
and that You have called us to share Your love with everyone we meet.
Help us to receive Your life, walk in Your strength,
and follow Your ways every moment of our lives.
Amen**

Prayers of remembrance as we go out into the world

Blessing

And now, may God's caring arms embrace you;
Jesus' comforting words fill you,
the Holy Spirit's renewing presence surround you;
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with you and those in your hearts, today and always.
Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ
Thanks be to God.